A Comparative Study on Various Socio-Personal Attributes of Selected Santhal and Sabour Tribes of Dakshin Dinajpur District in West Bengal, India

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted purposively in selected Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal where among the 08 blocks, 04 blocks are tribal dominated. In this study, from the 04 blocks, Tapan and Kumarganj blocks were adopted due to their socio-economic backwardness and tribal dominancy in the district as well as state. Santhal and Sabour tribes in the district of West Bengal were considered for sample population and from each community 40 samples were randomly selected under the age group of 20-40 years. In this way, total numbers of N=80 (40 Santhal + 40 Sabour) samples were considered to form the sample population under study. The collected data was computed and analyzed by various statistical methods for better interpretation of the results. The study depicted that education level was little less in Sabour than Santhal tribes. Labor and cultivation was main occupation in maximum Santhal and Sabour tribes, but majority of Sabour tribes were under low income group as majority belongs to landless cate-gory. Family size was maximum in sabar but less in Santhal tribes as the Sabour tribes are quiet isolated but not in Santhal. Santhal had better attitude and awareness about health hygiene status than Sabour due to their higher education status. The knowledge and awareness level towards hygienic health status were satisfactory in Santhal but not in Sabour tribes due to similar facts. Finally, the study explored that, Santhals have better socio-economic and psychological status than Sabour tribes though they belong to same tribal class. So, for up gradation of human development index of tribal people better attention on these aspects is needed to bring them into mainstream of development.

Keywords Socio-personal, Santhal, Sabour, Tribals, Comparative.

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INTRODUCTION

Tribal of India is a pre class society that is united by a 'fabric of kinship'. They play an important role in the evolution of human society. They are the group of people, occupying a continuous territory and having a feeling of unity deriving from numerous similarities in culture, frequent contacts and a certain community of interest. The primitiveness of tribal's are still very sound due to their socio-economic backwardness, poor education, low urbanization and degraded health status. Several tribal communities are characterized by the poor socio-economic, socio-cultural and so-

cio-psychological attributes and therefore any formal approach for measuring their health status was not only unsuitable but unsatisfactory. After six decades of independence, various national programs provided greater inputs for tribal development but it is still not so remarkable regarding their socio-personal attributes. Therefore, with only linear expansion of health service, the overall health status of the selected Santhal and Sabour tribals groups only cannot be improved. Keeping this above perspectives in mind an attempt was made to assess some socio-personal and socio-economic characteristics of selected Santhal and Sabour tribals in Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted purposively in selected Dakshin Dinajpur district of Northearn region of West Bengal where among the 08 blocks, 04 blocks are tribal dominated. In this study, from the 04 blocks, Tapan and Kumarganj blocks were adopted due to their socio-economic backwardness and tribal dominancy in the district as well as state. Santhal and Sabour tribes in the district of West Bengal were considered for sample population and from each community 40 samples were randomly selected un-

der the age group of 20-40 years. In this way, total numbers of N=80 (40 Santhal+40 Sabour) samples were considered to form the sample population under study. The independent variables of the study were 14 no's in which 11 no's of socio-economic and 03 no's of socio psychological variables. 'Health status index' (Y_1) was the dependent variables which was measured by the scale developed by Dhargupta *et al.* (2009) and applied to assess the health status of selected Santhal and Sabour tribes of Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal. Pre tested structured interview schedule was used to collect data by the researchers herself for the study. The collected data was computed and analyzed by various statistical methods including percentage analysis, Mean+ SE, chi-square, correlation coefficient and PCA analysis for better interpretation of the results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-personal characteristics of sample respondents (Santhal and Sabour tribes) of Dakshin Dinajpur district of WB are being shown in Table 1.

It was evident from the Table 1, that greater no of sample respondents of Santhal and Sabour tribes were landless category. Some of them belong to mar-

Table 1. Distribution of some demographic and socio-personal characteristics of selected Santhal and Sabour tribal respondents (N=40).

Sl. No.	Variables	Category		Santhal tribles		Sabour tribes	
				Frequency (N=80)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (N=80)	Percentage (%)
1	Category	a.	Landless	25	62.5	34	85.00
		b.	Marginal	08	20.0	05	12.5
		c.	Small	07	17.5	01	2.5
2	Age	a.	20-40 years	29	72.5	32	80.0
		b.	41-60 years	11	27.5	08	20.0
3	Sex	a.	Male	17	42.5	16	40.0
		b.	Female	23	57.5	24	60.0
4	Religion	a.	Hinduism	34	85.0	37	92.5
		b.	Christian	06	15.0	03	7.5
5	Marital status	a.	Married	11	27.5	08	20.0
		b.	Unmarried	25	62.5	29	72.5
		c.	Widow	04	10.0	03	7.5
6	Education of respondent	a.	Illiterate	19	47.5	30	75.0
		b.	Can read only	02	5.0	01	2.5
		c.	Can read and write	10	25.0	05	12.5
		d.	Primary	04	10.0	02	5.0
		e.	Middle	03	7.5	01	2.5
		f.	High school	02	5.0	01	2.5
		g.	Graduate	00	0.00	00	0.00

Table 1. Continued.

Sl. No.	Variables	Category	Santhal tribles		Sabour tribes	
			Frequency (N=80)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (N=80)	Percentage (%)
7	Family education status	a. Illiterate	18	45.0	28	70.00
		b. Can read only	04	10.0	03	7.5
		c. Can read and write	10	2.5	06	15.0
		d. Primary	05	12.5	02	5.0
		e. Middle	02	5.0	01	2.5
		f. High school	01	2.5	00	0.00
		g. Graduate	00	0.00	00	0.00
8	Occupation	a. Labor	18	45.0	21	52.5
		b. Caste occupation	05	12.5	03	7.5
		c. Business	02	5.0	00	0.00
		d. Independent	01	2.5	05	12.5
		e. Cultivation	10	25.0	08	20.0
		f. Service	00	0.00	00	0.00
		g. Wood collector	04	10.0	03	7.5
	Gross income	a. Below 2000/-	31	77.5	38	95.0
		b. 2001-5000/-	08	20.0	02	5.0
		c. 5001 and above	01	2.5	00	0.00
9	Land holding	a. No Land	32	80.0	34	85.00
		b. Up to one hect	08	20.0	06	15.00
10	Family type	a. Nuclear family	33	82.5	12	30.0
		b.. Joint family	07	17.5	28	70.0
11	Family size	a. Up to 5 member	26	65.0	15	37.5
		b. Above 5 member	14	35.0	25	62.5
12	House type	a. No house	00	0.00	00	0.00
		b. Hut	27	67.5	30	75.0
		c. Kutcha house	10	25.00	11	22.5
		d. Mixed house	03	7.5	01	2.5
		a. Pucca house	00	0.00	00	0.00

ginal group, but there have not single farmers under medium- large category from both Santhal and Sabour tribes. Majority of selected respondents in Santhal and Sabour tribes were found in Hindu religion and rest were found as Christian community. There was not a single tribal's belongs to Muslim or any other religion. There was a random selection in case of sex differentiation. During survey the data was collected in which 40-42% was male and 57-60% was female among all selected Santhal and Sabour tribes. Majority (72-80%) of respondents from Santhal and Sabour tribes belongs to 20-40 years age group and others from 41-60 years. The random data were collected from maximum no. of married samples from both the tribes but still interview was done in 10% Santhal and 7.5% Sabour who were widow or widower. Education status was very poor in Sabour tribes i.e. 75% of them were illiterate followed by Santhals (47.5%). Few sample respondents from both the tribes can read and write and there were not a single graduate in both the selected Santhal and Sabour tribes in the area. In case of family education status, the scenario is same, where, majority of the respondents in both the tribes were illiterate, followed by few can read and write. But, there were no single Sabour tribes who completed their high school as well as graduate education. According to the educational status of an individual sample it was clear that most of the samples family education status was very low i.e. under illiterate category. Maximum no. of respondents were in labor class and it was high in Sabour tribes. Only 12.5% Santhals and 7.5% Sabour were involved in caste occupation, where as 5.0% Santhals was involved in business, but no one engaged in business from Sabour tribes. There was not a single individual in both the tribes who involved in service. The result showed that

majority (80-85%) of the Santhal and Sabour tribes were landless and rest having land up to one hectare. There was not a single respondent in both the tribes who have land above one hectare. Income was very low in Sabour than Santhal. The result depicted that 77.5% Santhal and 95% Sabour had low income i.e. below Rs 2000/-. Again, 20% Santhal and 5% Sabour had middle income and only 2.5% Santhals had high income. But, there were no single Sabour tribes who had high income as means of their livelihood. Rout (2006) found active relationship between income level and health status of tribal people in Orissa. The data showed that 82.5% Santhals and 30% Sabour lived in single family. So, the data showed reverse tendency in Santhal and Sabour tribes considering their family living pattern. The interviewed data showed that majority of selected Santhal and Sabour tribes were having minimum places for their shelter. There was not a single respondent in both the tribes who are houseless and having a Pucca house. But, 25% of Santhal and 22.5% of Sabour were staying in kutcha house and very scanty i.e. 7.5% Santhals and 2.5% Sabour used to live in mixed house, which reflects their socio-economic status. Family size up to 5 members were maximum (65%) in Santhal tribes, but family size more than 5 members was high (62.5%) in Sabour tribes.

It was clear from the table that maximum Santhal and Sabour respondents were landless and marginal category and they did not have any extra land for extra income like cultivation. That is why maximum respondents were mainly involved in labor class and due to their occupation; their income was very low (below Rs 2000/- month). The data also showed that majority of Santhal and Sabour respondents were illiterate, which may be due to their poor socio-economic condition and large family size. Nagda (2004) stated that education among tribals was very low which effect health status and Jong *et al.* (1995) observed positive relation between education and health status among the tribes in India. Mahapatra (1997) found that Christian tribal people have been given facilities for education, health and co-operative service, so that they become healthier more educated and economically more prosperous than others.

Mean, Chi-square (Kruskal wallis) and MW–U test of the selected independent variables and Health status index (Y_1) of Santhal and Sabour tribes are shown in Table 2.

In Table 2 the mean of the selected independent variables and Health status index (Y_1) of Santhal and Sabour tribes was given. The higher mean scores were observed in Santhal respondents who were within 20-40 years. But, the health status was sig-

Table 2. Mean, chi-square (Kruskal wallis) and Man Whitney-U test of selected independent variables and health status index (Y_1) of Santhal and Sabour respondents.

Sl. No.	Item/ variable	Category	Santhal (N=40)	Sabour N=40)	Chi-square/ Man Whitney- U test Santhal	Sabour	Significance Santhal	Sabour
1	Category	Landless	14.42	9.97	6.50	5.43	0.04	0.07
	.	Marginal	16.34	9.80				
		Small	17.21	17.00				
		Medium- Large	0.00	0.00				
2	Age	20-40 years	16.43	11.29	670.00	487.00	0.21	0.00
		41-60 years	15.08	8.84				
3.	Sex	a. Male	14.91	10.03	1.67	767.00	0.20	0.84
		b. Female	16.34	10.20				
4.	Religion	a. Hinduism	15.67	10.13	35.00	8.00	0.18	0.03
		b. Christian	19.00	19.50				
5.	Marital status	Unmarried	16.42	10.31	9.69	0.42	0.01	0.81
		Married	16.17	10.06				
	.	Widow	11.38	11.00				
6.	Education of respondent	Illiterate	15.28	10.15	13.76	57.00	0.02	0.52
		Can read only	0.00	0.00				
		Can read- write	17.00	0.00				

Table 2. Continued.

Sl. No	Item/ variable		Category	Santhal (N=40)	Sabour N=40	Chi-square/ Man Whitney- U test		Significance	
						Santhal	Sabour	Santhal	Sabou
			Primary	14.45	9.00				
			Middle	16.20	0.00				
			High School	18.64	0.00				
			Graduate	0.00	0.00				
7.	Family education status	a.	Illiterate	34.76	7.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		b.	Can read only	52.70	10.70				
		c.	Can read- write	71.60	19.70				
		d.	Primary	48.10	9.92				
		e.	Middle	16.00	4.00				
		f.	High School	0.00	0.00				
		g.	Graduate	0.00	0.00				
8.	Occupation		Labour	16.24	12.17	9.04	3.40	0.34	0.33
			Caste occupation	14.70	9.83				
			Business	13.67	13.00				
		.	Independent	21.00	4.00				
			Cultivation	14.97	10.70				
			Service	0.00	0.00				
			Forest wood pike	3.36	3.41				
	Gross income	a.	Below 2000/-	15.21	9.95	12.98	4.00	0.00	0.02
		b.	2001-5000/-	14.96	17.00				
		c.	5001& above	3.38	0.00				
10.	Land holding		No Land	15.08	9.87	3.36	5.34	0.19	0.07
			Up to 01 hect.	16.00	10.50				
			Up to 02 hect.	17.07	17.00				
		.	Above 02 hect	0.00	0.00				
11.	Family type	a.	Nuclear family	15.32	10.88	386.00	509.00	0.08	0.09
		b.	Joint family	17.35	9.80				
12.	Family size	.	Up to 5 member	15.13	10.40	523.50	689.00	0.09	0.54
			Above 5 member	16.89	9.96				
13.	House type		No. house	0.00	0.00	22.31	0.89	0.00	0.83
			Hut	13.48	9.40				
			Kutcha house	15.70	19.00				
		.	Mixed house	14.94	3.56				
			Pucca house	0.00	00.00				
			Mansion	0.00	0.00				

nificantly higher in Sabour tribes whereas the other independent variables were not affected by change of age. The higher mean scores were observed due to health status index in the Santhal respondents who were in small category. Y_1 was significantly higher in Santhal whereas other independent variables were not affected by change of category. In Santhal tribes no significant difference was found among varying the age whereas in Sabour tribe, no significant difference was found among varying the category. The higher mean scores were found due to Y_1 in Santhal respondents who were Christian. In Santhal tribe no significance difference was found among varying the religion but there was significant difference in Sabour

tribes due to variation in religion. The mean scores of male Santhal tribe were higher than Sabour tribe but not significantly, whereas the other independent variables were not affected change of sex. The higher mean scores were observed due to Y_1 in unmarried Santhal respondents. In Santhal respondents significantly higher mean scores was found in unmarried respondents by change of marital status. Health status (Y_1) was significantly higher in Santhal tribe where as the other independent variables were not affected by change of education. The higher mean scores were observed due to Y_1 in Santhal tribes who had studied can read and write and up to high school education. The higher mean scores were observed due to Y_1 in

Santhal whose family members can read and write and can read only. The higher mean scores were observed due to Y_1 in Santhal respondents who were labor and independent occupation. For all variables under both Santhal and Sabour tribes no significant difference was found among varying occupation and land type. The higher mean scores were observed due to Y_1 in Santhal respondents who had land up to one and two hectare. For all variables, Y_1 studied under Santhal and Sabour tribes no significant difference was found among varying land holding. The higher mean scores were observed due to Y_1 in the Sabour respondents who had middle income and in case of Santhal respondents who had low income. Y_1 was significantly higher in both Santhal and Sabour tribes whereas the other independent variables were not affected by change of income of both tribes. The higher mean scores were observed due to Y_1 in Santhal respondents who were staying in kutcha house. Y_1 was significantly higher in Santhal tribes, whereas the other independent variables were not affected by change of house type. The higher mean scores were found due to Y_1 in Santhal respondents whose family size was more than 5. For all variables Y_1 studied un-der Sabour tribe no significant difference was found among varying family size. The higher mean scores were found due to Y_1 in Santhal respondents who were staying as a joint family and same was observed due to Y_1 in Sabour respondents who were staying as nuclear family. For all variables, Y_1 studied under Santhal and Sabour tribes no significant difference was found among varying family type. Nestle *et al.* (1992) found positive relationship between socio-economic condition and health status of tribal people.

From the above discussion, it was clear that the health status of the selected Santhal and Sabour tribal people principally depends on their educational status, family educational background, gross income, house type and knowledge about health status. Basu (1993) observed that the health status of tribal women was found to be lower than others due to lower education and income level. The fact also indicated that Santhal tribes are quite better than Sabour tribes considering their overall socio-economic and health status.

Mean Comparison between selected Santhal and Sabour tribes for all variables under study are depicted in Table 3.

Table 3. Mean comparison between selected Santhal and Sabour tribes for all variables under study. * Significant at 0.05 level; ** Significant at 0.01 level.

Independent variables	Mean value of Santhal (N=40)	Mean value of Sabour (N=40)	Chi-square test	Significance
Socio- economic				
(x1) Category	0.79	0.18	40.02**	0.00
(x2) Religion	1.05	1.00	4.04	0.26
(x3) Age	1.50	1.47	0.14	0.99
(x4) Sex	1.59	1.56	3.51	0.32
(x5) Marital status	1.14	1.14	0.98	0.81
(x6) Education of resp.	1.86	0.08	55.71**	0.00
(x7) Family edu. status	0.97	0.10	56.11**	0.00
(x8) Occupation	3.06	1.89	17.49**	0.00
(x9) Land holding	0.70	0.18	39.94**	0.00
(x10) Gross income	1.65	1.02	60.23**	0.00
(x11) House type	2.11	1.06	104.50**	0.00
(x12) Family size	1.35	1.62	31.79**	0.00
(x13) Family type	1.21	1.70	73.52**	0.00
Socio-psychological				
(x14) Attitude in health status	44.22	38.89	105.26**	0.00
(x15) Know. In health status	8.73	3.67	92.46**	0.00
(x16) Awareness about health hygiene	14.55	9.63	98.71**	0.00
Dependent variables				
(Y1) Health status index	15.75	10.13	83.40**	0.00

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The Table 3 displayed the mean values of different independent variables under study for select Santhal and Sabour tribes. The mean score obtained by the respondents of Santhal and Sabour tribes in category, family education status, occupation, land holding, gross income, house type, family type, family size, knowledge and attitude towards health status, awareness about health hygiene and health status index were varying significantly at 1% level of significance. The result showed that religion, age, sex and marital status had no significant difference for their mean scores due to two tribes. Category, education, family education status, occupation, land holding, gross income, house type, knowledge and attitude towards health status, awareness about health hygiene and health status index were highly significant in Santhal tribes which were responsible for their poor health status. Singh and Verma (2004) revealed that improved education level increase the knowledge and awareness level among tribal people. Family type and family size were highly significant in Sabour tribes.

CONCLUSION

Tribal's of India Play an important role in the evolution of human society. The primitiveness of tribal's are still very sound due to their socio-economic backwardness, poor urbanization and degraded health status. The study revealed the reality of fact in case of Santhal and Sabour tribes of Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal under study. Different tribes have different magnitude of socio-economic and psychological status in which practice of education is common for all tribal's respondents. The study depicted similar facts, but education level was little less in Sabour than Santhal tribes. Labor and cultivation was main occupation in maximum Santhal

and Sabour tribes, but majority of Sabour tribes were under low income group as majority belongs to landless category. Family size was maximum in Sabour but less in Santhal tribes as the Sabour tribes are quiet isolated but not in Santhal. Santhal had better attitude and awareness about health hygiene status than Sabour due to their higher education status. The knowledge and awareness level towards hygienic health status were satisfactory in Santhal but not in Sabour tribes due to similar facts. Finally, the study explored that, Santhals have better socio-economic and psychological status than Sabour tribes though they belong to same tribal class. So, for up gradation of human development index of tribal people better attention on these aspects is needed to bring them into mainstream of development.

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